



Communicable Disease Updates

Mecklenburg County
Board of County Commissioners
Public Policy Meeting
September 25, 2023

Environmental Health

- Inspect and permit facilities and/or products as authorized by general statute
- Issue enforcement actions and report to NC DHHS
- Provide staff education focused on prevention

Communicable Disease

- Case investigation and contact tracing
- Case patient education and linkage to care
- Report to NC DHHS and CDC



EH is responsible for enforcing state statutes and local ordinances governing a number of different types of facilities:

- Restaurants and Drink Stands
- Food Stands
- Pushcarts and Mobile Food Units
- Private and Public School Lunchrooms
- Private and Public School Buildings
- Catered Elderly Nutrition Sites
- Limited Food Service Facilities
- Lodging Facilities (hotels, motels, and bed and breakfast)
- Meat Markets
- Public Swimming Pools
- Rest Homes and Nursing Homes
- Hospitals
- Home Day Care Facilities
- Residential Care Facilities (group homes and family foster homes)
- Local Confinement Facilities (jails)
- Adult Day Care Homes



Foodborne Illness

- Commonly results from improper food handling and preparation:
 - Improper storing and cooking temperatures
 - Dirty and/or contaminated utensils and equipment
 - Poor employee health and hygiene
 - Food from unsafe sources
- Can occur wherever food is consumed
 - Outbreaks are a particular risk at potlucks and picnics where hygiene/sanitation and storage temperatures may be harder to maintain.



Foodborne Illness

- In Mecklenburg County, most commonly reported foodborne illnesses include Salmonella, Campylobacter, Shigella, and E. coli.
- Recent outbreaks have occurred in restaurants, picnics and potlucks from various organisms including norovirus, Salmonella, Shigella, E coli and Hepatitis A.
- Public Health inspectors work with establishments that serve and prepare food to practice proper food handling and preparation procedures.



The Charlotte Observer

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KNOW YOUR 704

Were bugs found at your favorite Charlotte restaurant? Here's how to check

- Residents can look up inspection reports and submit services requests at **health.mecknc.gov**

The screenshot shows the 'INSPECTION MANAGEMENT SYSTEM' interface. It features a search form with the following fields: 'Enter Establishment Name Containing', 'Enter City Name starting with', 'Establishment Name' (dropdown), 'City' (dropdown), 'ZIP Code' (dropdown), 'Establishment Type' (dropdown), 'Inspection Date' (range selector), 'Score' (dropdown), and 'County' (dropdown). There are 'Start Search' and 'Clear Search' buttons. Below the form is a pagination bar showing '1 of 903' items and '9026 Items / Page'. A table header is visible with columns: Name, Address, City, State, ZIP Code, Type.

Environmental Health Service Request Form

* Items marked with an asterisk are required

Tell us about the problem:

This issue concerns: *

- Food Safety Facility Safety Ground Water

Facility or Property Owner's Name (Subject) * ⓘ



Environmental Health

Enhancing Environmental Health Inspections

- New Shared Kitchen and Mobile Food Inspection Team
- Completion of Food Safety Risk Factor Study
- Voluntary U.S. FDA Retail Food Program Standards
- Embedded Food Safety Training Videos in Inspection Reports



Influenza and RSV

Influenza

- Seasonal flu activity is low across most of the country.
- September and October are good times to get a flu vaccine.
- Young children who need two doses should get the first one as soon as possible.
- Pregnant people in their third trimester, older adults and those with underlying conditions are highly encouraged to get a flu shot.



Influenza and RSV

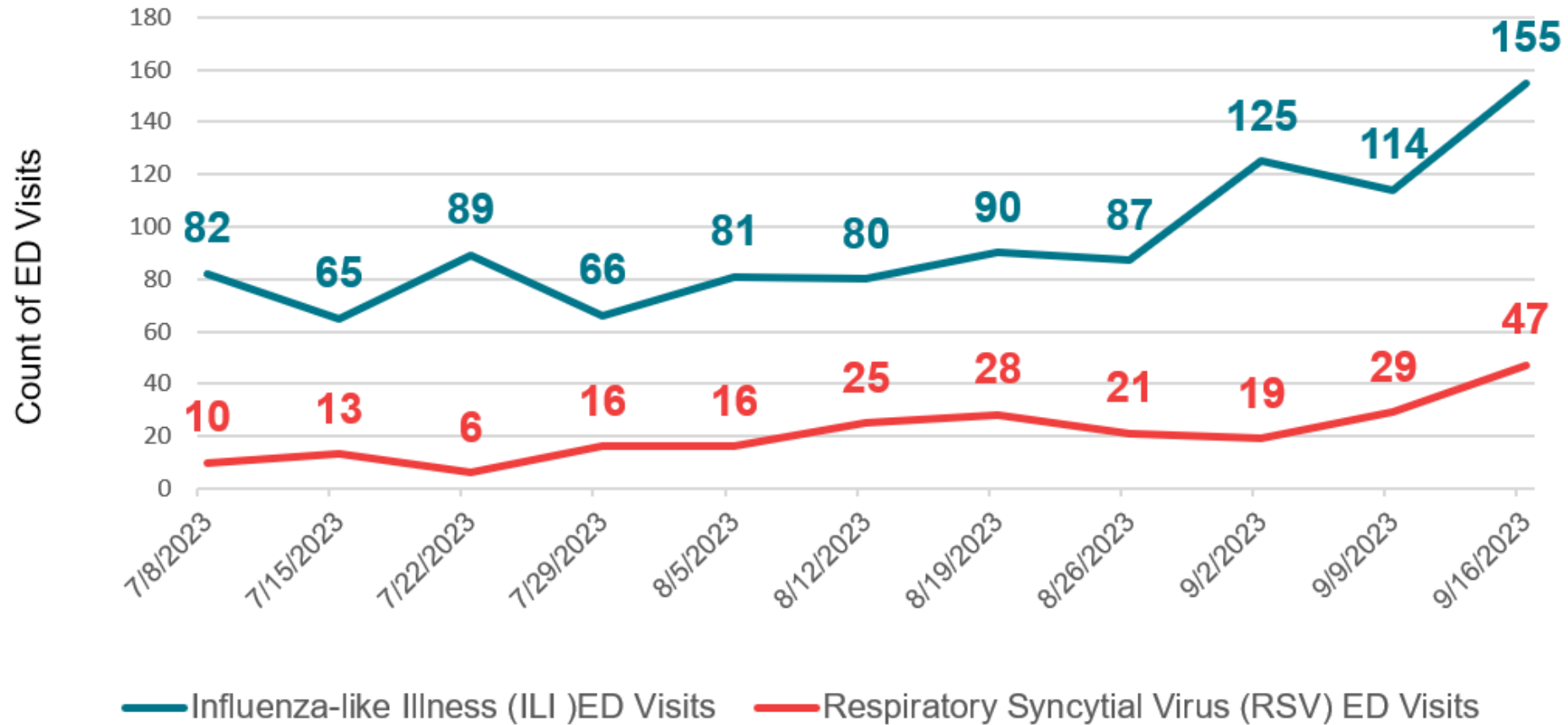
RSV

- Severe illness more common in infants and older adults
- Vaccines:
 - Arexvy or Abrysvo vaccine for ages 60 and over using shared clinical decision making
 - NEW: vaccine recommended during weeks 32-36 of pregnancy
 - Expect vaccine recommendation this fall: Nirsevimab for infants under age 8 months before or entering first RSV season



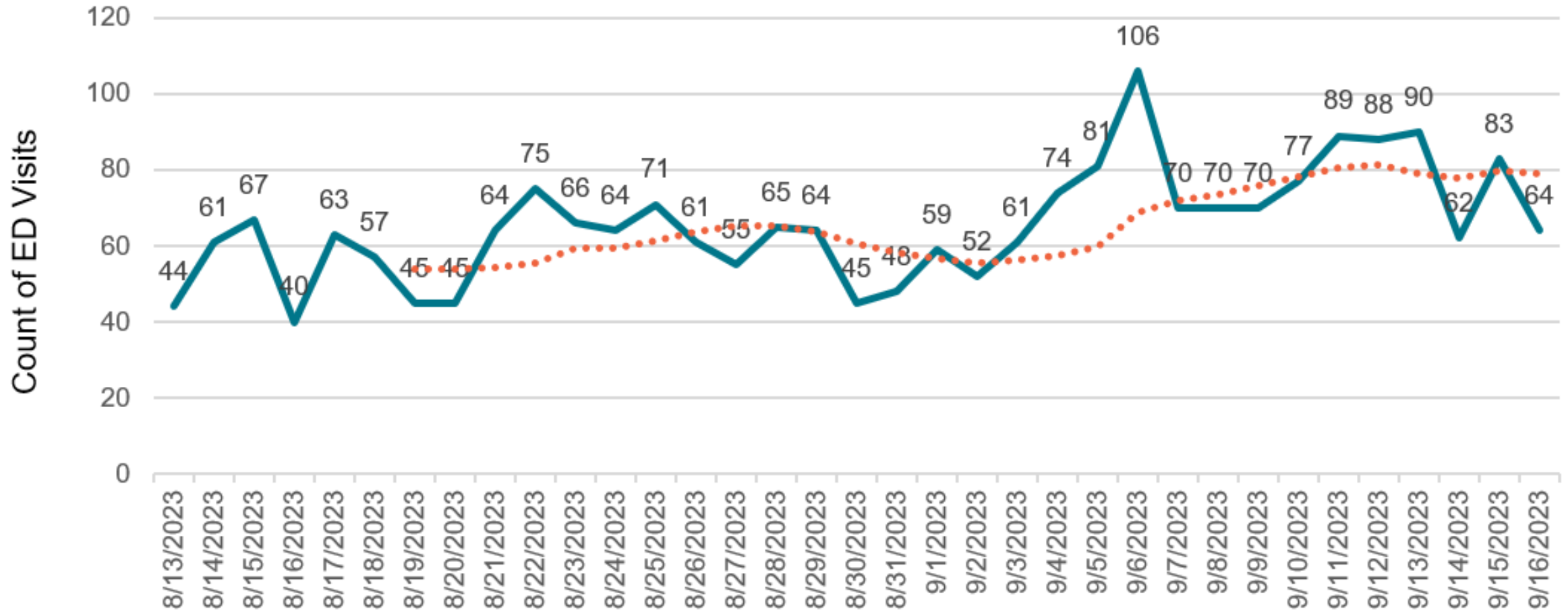
Influenza and RSV

ILI and RSV ED Weekly Visits, July–September 2023



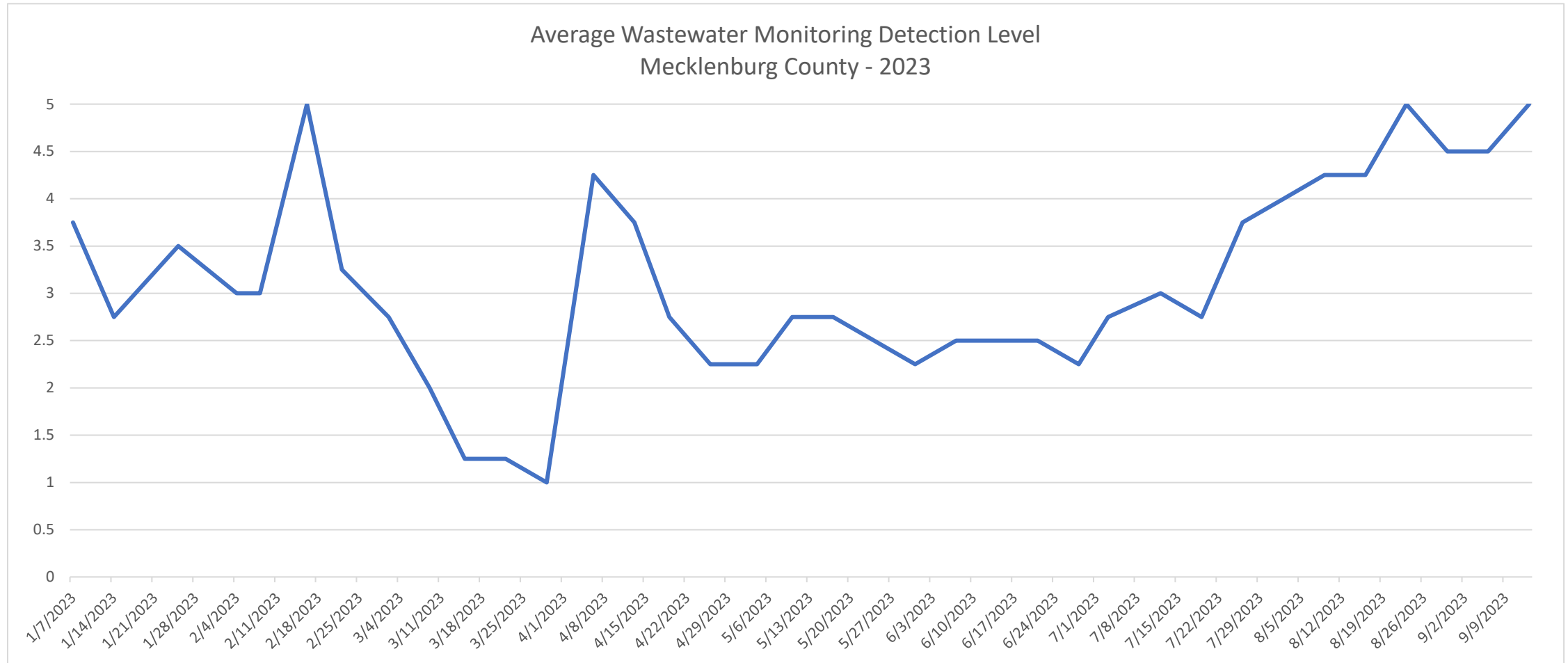
COVID-19 Information

COVID-Like ED Visits, July – September 2023



COVID-19 Information

Trends in COVID-19 Wastewater Detection Levels



COVID-19 Information

COVID-19 Vaccine Update

- FDA & CDC approved new COVID-19 vaccine (targeting Omicron XBB variant)
 - Now distributing to pharmacies and other ordering vaccine providers
- COVID-19 vaccine = a one-dose, routine annual vaccine (like seasonal flu vaccine)
 - Recommended for everyone 6 months old and older



COVID-19 Information

COVID-19 Vaccine Update

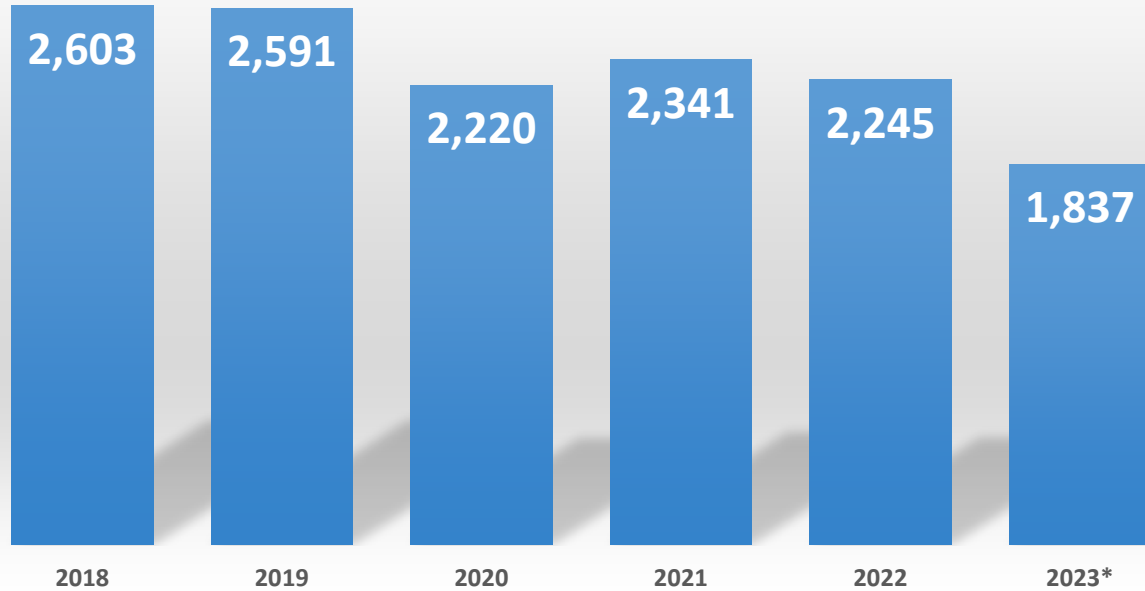
- COVID-19 vaccination = commercialized (government is no longer the sole provider)
 - CDC's Bridge Access program provides free COVID-19 vaccines to un- and under-insured people through December 2024.
 - Available at CVS and Walgreens pharmacies nationwide
- Local COVID-19/Flu mass media campaign launches in October



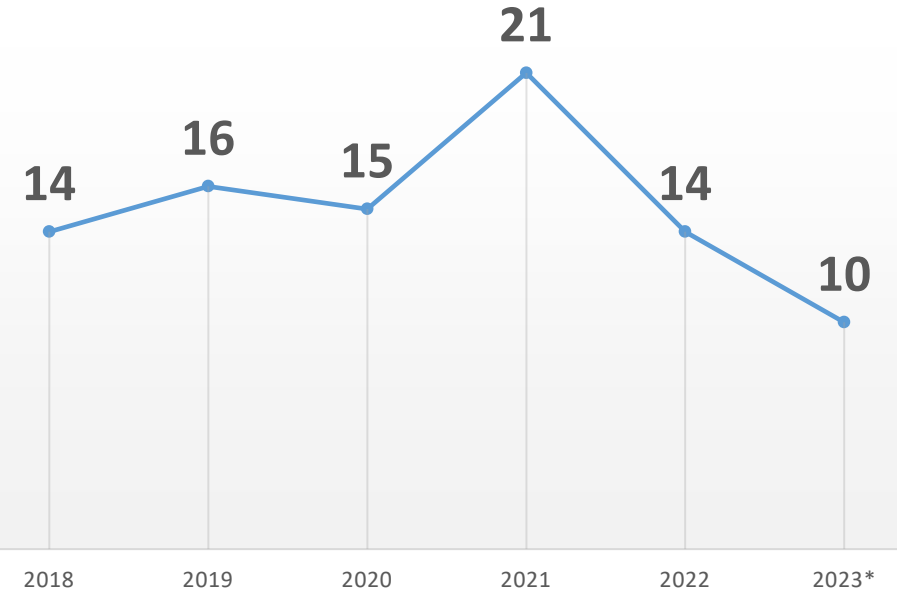
Rabies

Highlights

Total Bite/Rabies Reports Assessed (2018-2023)



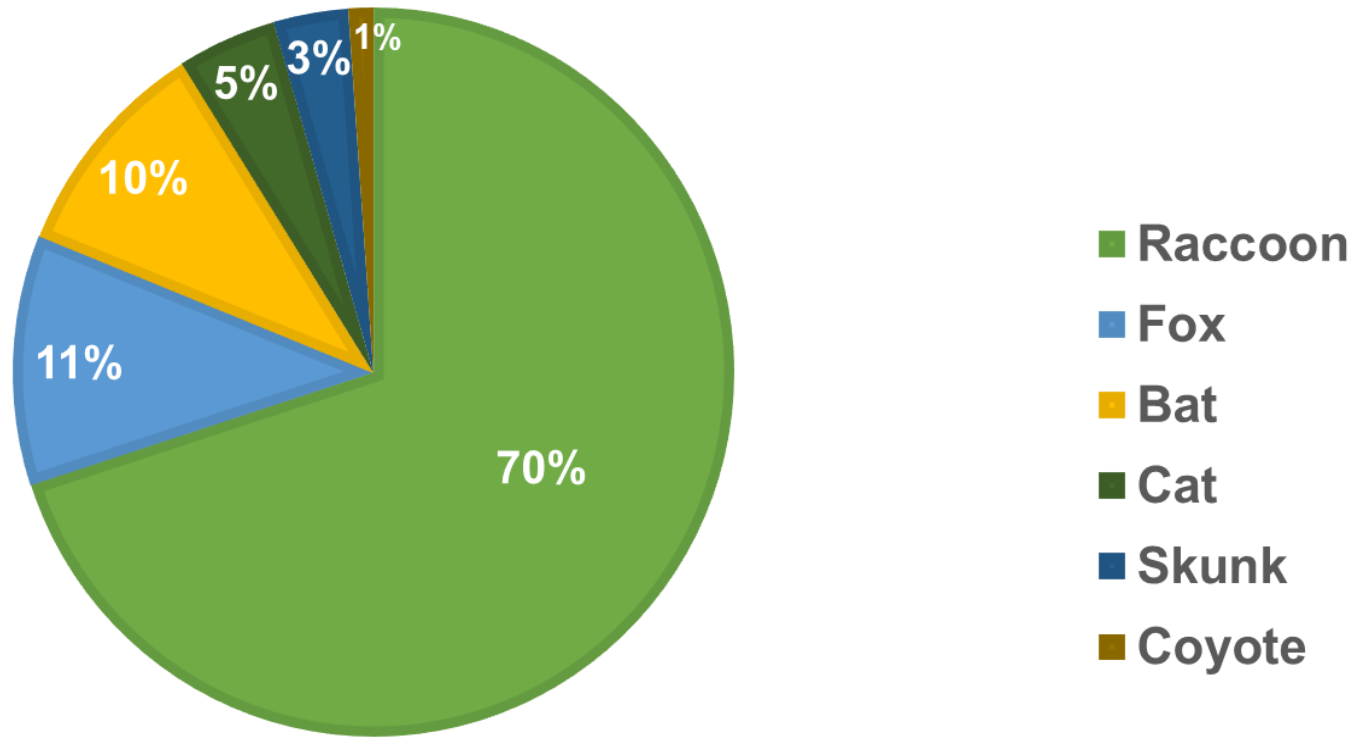
Laboratory Confirmed Rabies Positive Animals: 2018-2023



Rabies

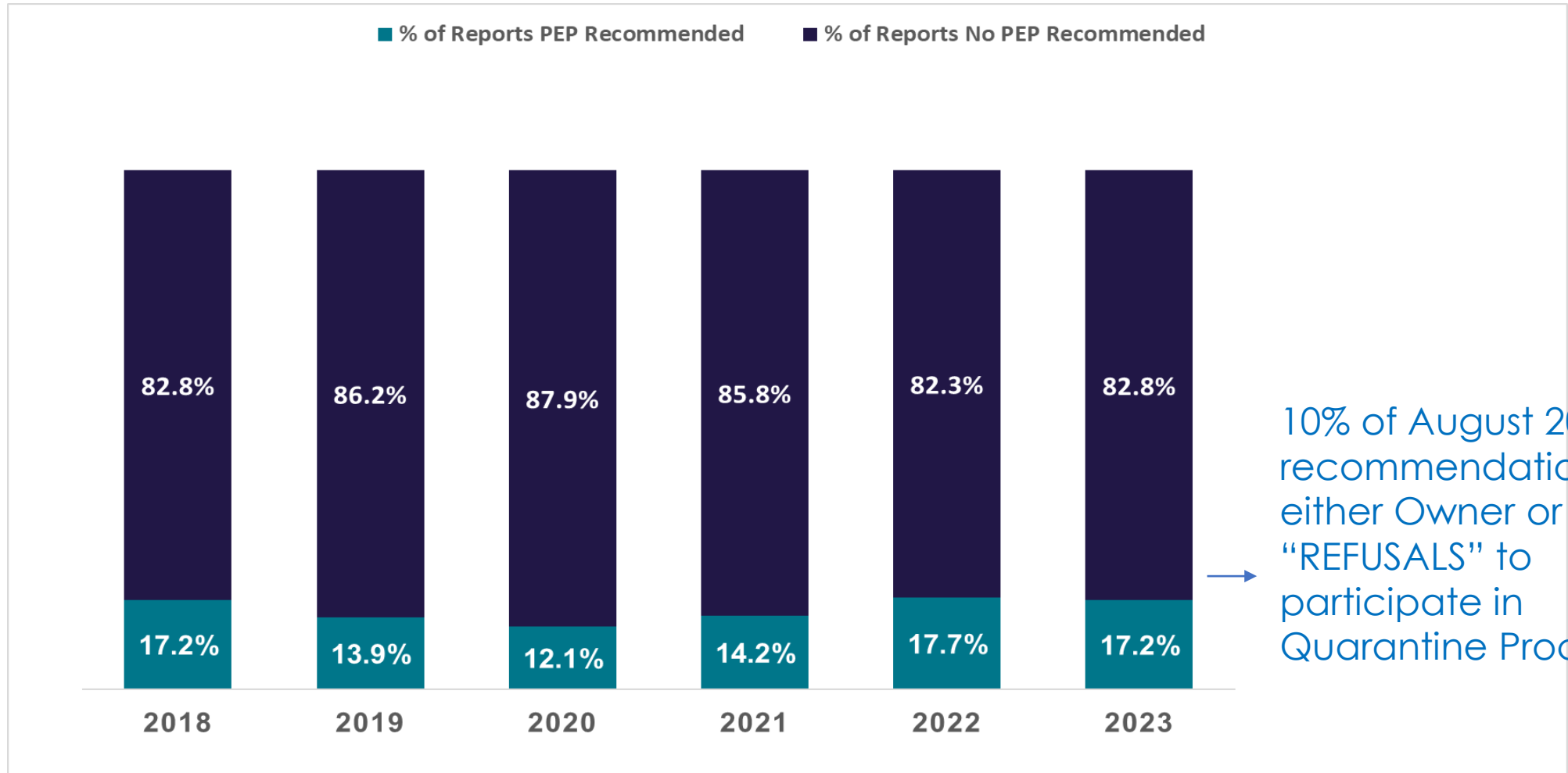
Highlights

MECKLENBURG COUNTY'S LABORATORY
CONFIRMED RABIES POSITIVE ANIMALS: 2018-2023



Rabies

Education and Collaboration



10% of August 2023 PEP recommendations were either Owner or Victim "REFUSALS" to participate in Quarantine Process



Rabies

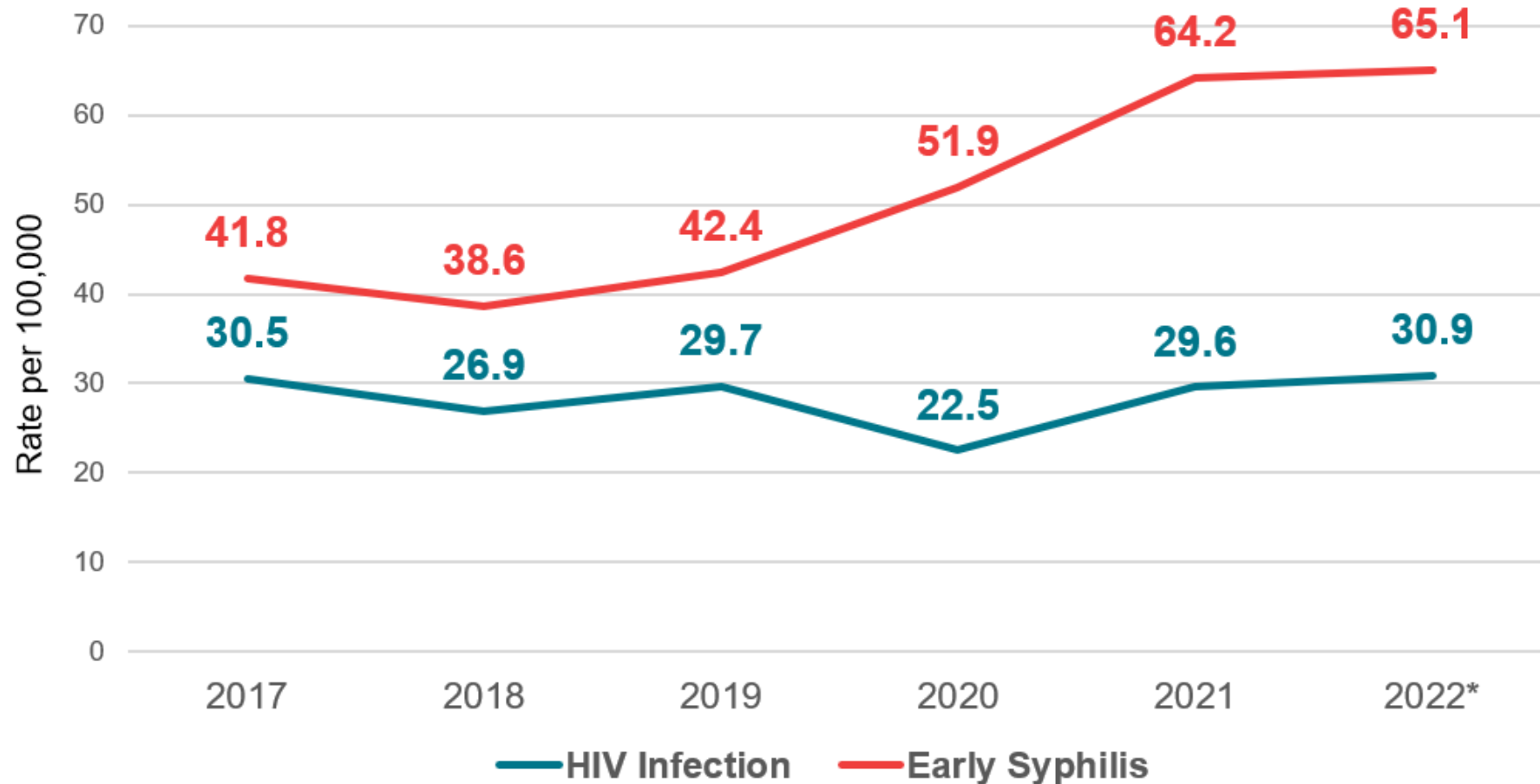
Marketing Campaign

- County billboard April 2023 – August 2023
- 28-day digital ad campaign = 391,877 targeted impressions



HIV/STI Information

Newly Diagnosed HIV and Early Syphilis Case Rates, 2017 – 2022



HIV/STI Information

Disease Investigations Updates

January 1, 2023 – August 31, 2023

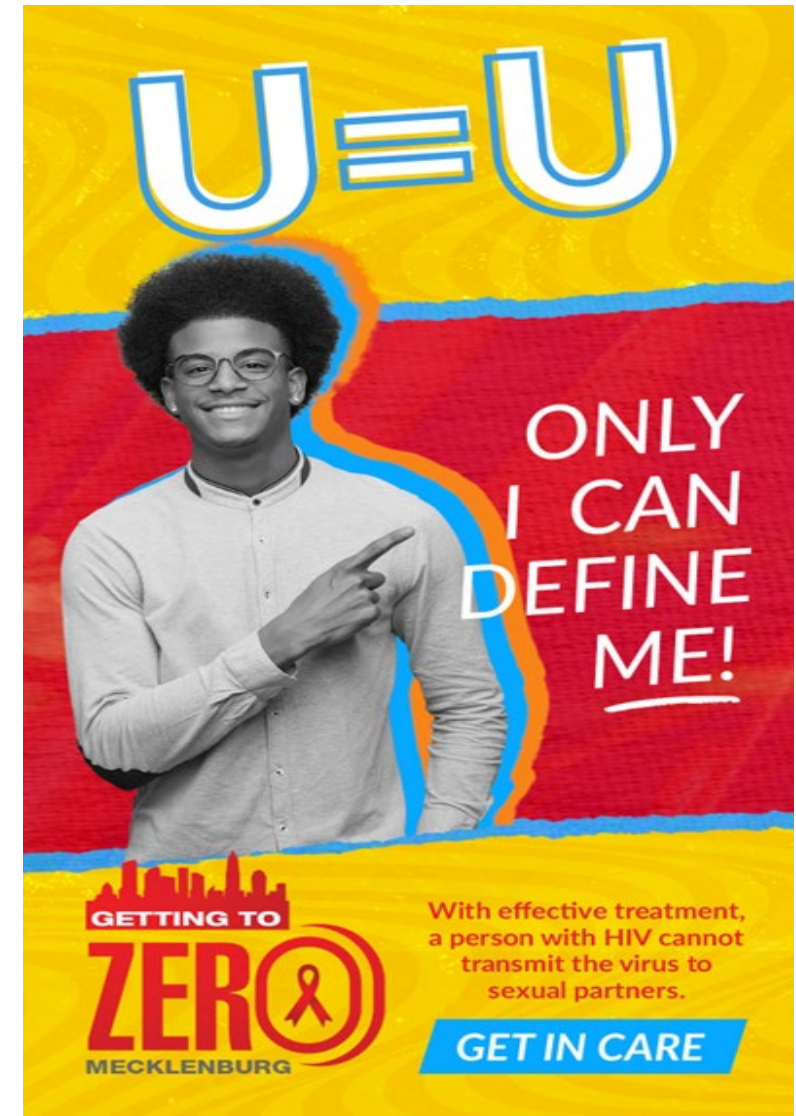
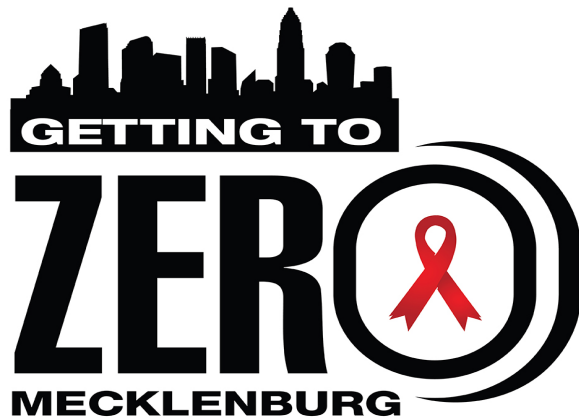
# of HIV Case Assigned	# of HIV Cases Investigated
262	220 (84%)
# of Syphilis Cases Assigned	# of Syphilis Cases Investigated
594	497 (83.6%)



HIV/STI Programs

Linkage to Care

- In FY23, 275 individuals referred from community for linkage to HIV care 219 successfully re-engaged in care



HIV/STI Programs

HIV Pre-Exposure Prophylaxis (PrEP)

- **County-funded providers:**
 - Amity Medical Group
 - Atrium Health
 - Charlotte Community Health
 - C. W. Williams Community Health
 - Dudley's Place
 - Eastowne Family Physicians
 - Planned Parenthood
 - RAO Community Health
 - Mecklenburg County Public Health
 - Alpha Health/Wellnes (new in FY24)
- Novant Health Midtown Family Medicine (new in FY24)
- **NC DHHS-funded providers:**
 - Kintegra Health
 - Cabarrus Health Alliance



HIV/STI Programs

Let's Get Checked

- Distributed ~100 free HIV/STI at-home test kits
- Standard 5 kit tests for chlamydia, gonorrhea, HIV, syphilis & trichomoniasis



HIV/STI Community Outreach Efforts

Charlotte Black Pride 2023

- Pride in the Park, July 15
- Charlotte Black Pride Expo, July 22



HIV/STI Community Outreach Efforts

Charlotte Pride 2023

- Offered HIV/STI screenings offered
- Distributed HIV/STI at-home tests
- Booth engagement with 600+ attendees



Vaccines for Childhood Preventable Diseases

Vaccines

- Highly effective in preventing death or serious harm to children
- For fully vaccinated people:
 - Measles, rubella, polio, and tetanus largely eliminated
 - Severity of mumps, diphtheria, whooping cough, chicken pox, and some types of pneumonia and meningitis greatly reduced



Vaccines for Childhood Preventable Diseases

Vaccines

- North Carolina requires vaccination against selected childhood preventable diseases for entry into kindergarten, 7th, and 12th grades.
- Influenza and COVID-19 vaccines are recommended, but not required



Vaccines for Childhood Preventable Diseases

Preventable Diseases

- Most commonly reported vaccine-preventable diseases:
 - Haemophilus influenzae type b (Hib)
 - Varicella (chicken pox)
 - Pertussis (whooping cough)
- Jan 2023 -June 2023, County reported:
 - 3 Hib cases
 - 5 chicken pox cases



MCPH Mobile Clinical Units

- Two Sprinter vans upfitted for clinical services to support immunization efforts:
 - First van ready October 2023
 - Second van ready early 2024
- Next FY, mobile units will support other public health initiatives & programs next FY:
 - HIV/STI Services
 - School Health
- MCPH Mobile Dental Unit scheduled to arrive summer 2024



MCPH Mobile Clinical Units



Fall/Winter:
COVID-19 &
influenza



Spring/Summer:
Vaccine-
preventable
childhood illnesses

